

REMARKS

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Thus, claim 1 has been amended to change "comprising" to "consisting essentially of", in order to further distinguish the presently claimed invention from the disclosures of the references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims. In this regard, the electrode layers disclosed by Kashio et al. and Meguro et al. each contain a major proportion of powdery electrode material in addition to the binder of the vinylidene fluoride copolymer (see column 7, lines 23-32 of Kashio et al. and column 5, lines 9-16 of Meguro et al.), whereas the additive, such as a plasticizer and good solvent are substantially removed through the membrane-forming process in the present invention.

For these reasons, taken together with the patentability arguments of record, Applicants take the position that the presently claimed invention is clearly patentable over the applied references.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is submitted that each of the rejections set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Takumi KATSURAO et al.

By



Michael R. Davis

Registration No. 25,134

Attorney for Applicants

MRD/kh
Washington, D.C. 20005-1503
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
November 9, 2009